

Remarks

Drawings

In section 2 of the Office action, claims 6, 19, 7, and 20 were objected to because the features claimed were not illustrated in the figures. These features were described in the text of the patent at page 8 in the second and first paragraphs respectively. Although the text fully described these elements and even provided the reference numerals to provide the relation of these elements to the other elements in the figures these elements were initially left out of the drawings. The drawings have now been corrected. No new matter was entered as a result of this correction.

In section 3 of the Office action, the drawings were objected because characters 40, 22, 26, 52, and 18 referred to more than one element. The specification has been corrected to use consistent language and correct for typos. Currently, reference numbers refer to elements as follows: 40:socket body; 22:lid; 26:lid hinge mechanism; 52:incluined surface; and 18:handle. Again, no new matter was added with this change.

In section 4 of the Office action, the drawings were objected to because the drawings did not include reference signs included in the description. These numbers have been added to the drawings. In some instances, such as with the bolts, springs and the shims, elements that were fully described in the text were not properly illustrated. However, the related text on pages 6-9 fully describes these elements and their interpretation to other elements. Each of the reference numbers correspond to a feature that was fully described in the text. No new matter was added in making these changes.

In section 5 of the Office action, the drawings were objected to because some of the drawings included reference

numbers not included in the description. The drawings have been amended to delete these numbers.

In section 6 of the Office action, the drawings were objected to because reference numbers 16 and 50 appear to be located at different locations on the drawings. The drawings have been corrected to clarify the elements to which each number is attached.

Specification

The abstract has been amended so that it is less than 150 words long, and so that the word "means" is removed.

The title has been changed to a more descriptive title.

The informality in the description, namely describing the drawings as "Figs. 1-9" rather than "Figs. 1-7" has been corrected.

Claim Informalities

The claim informalities noted in Section 12 of the Office action have been corrected.

Section 102

The sole remaining issue is whether the applicant's claims 10-14 and 18-20 are anticipated Kiffe (U.S. Patent No. 6,353,329). The applicant's claims have been amended to obviate this rejection.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found in a single cited art reference. See Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil of California, 814 F.2d 628, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. See Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

To make more clear the differences between the cited reference and the applicant's claims, claims 10 and 13 have been amended. The claims now specify that the means for lowering the pressure plate include a continuous circumferential inclined surface. This is disclosed in the text at the third full paragraph on page 7, and is shown as inclined surface 52 in Fig. 3. The action of this movement is shown in Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 7.

In contrast to this claimed element, Kiffe does not teach a continuous inclined surface. Instead, Kiffe creates movement by rolling rollers 66 in a ramped surface 56. These ramped surfaces are contained within a discrete groove that holds the rollers.

In the Kiffe device, paddle 20 moves the pressure plate 18. Both these elements are held within a frame by a cover. See col. 4, lines 5-9. On one side of the pressure plate 18 are the plurality of ramped surfaces. The paddle is positioned above these short inclined sections. Spaced slots on the paddle receive a pair of rollers which then each separately fit into a groove that contains the ramped surface. Thus the ramped surfaces are not continuous but instead are locally contained within grooves.

The paddle in Kiffe includes a handle that is positioned in a frame such that it can rotate between two positions, "test" and "no test". See col. 6, lines 16-23. The frame restricts the paddle from rotating more than a defined arc, less than 180 degrees. The short, defined arcs defined by the inclined surfaces contained in a groove, work in cooperation with the paddle to ensure that the pressure plate moves a defined distance. This can be contrasted to the claimed invention, which now requires a continuous inclined surface.

Given that Kiffe does not teach one of the claimed elements as amended, the present rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

The applicants request reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Respectfully submitted,

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